

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM USLO PEKING
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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1707

EXDIS

FOR EA/PRCM THAYER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.), CASC, CH, US
SUBJ: DISCUSSION TOPICS FOR SECRETARY'S VISIT; VERIFICATION OF
FAMILY EMERGENCIES

1. DO YOU PLAN TO HAVE COUNTERPART TALKS DURING THE
VISIT IN ADDITION TO THE SECRETARY'S MEETINGS? IF SO, WE
WOULD SUGGEST AS ONE TOPIC A PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A
SYSTEM OF VERIFICATION OF FAMILY EMERGENCIES IN BOTH COUNTRIES.

2. ALTHOUGH THE CHINESE IN SEVERAL CASES HAVE ISSUED EMERGENCY
ENTRY VISAS TO AMERICANS (FOR EXAMPLE, THEY RECENTLY
PERMITTED A CHINESE-AMERICAN TO TRAVEL TO THE PRC TO VISIT
HIS DYING MOTHER), THEY HAVE DENIED VISAS TO OTHER
AMERICANS WHO HAVE ILL OR DYING RELATIVES IN CHINA. THERE
ARE, TO USLO'S KNOWLEDGE, NO CASES IN WHICH PRC RESIDENTS
HAVE BEEN PERMITTED BY THEIR GOVERNMENT TO LEAVE CHINA
SOLELY TO VISIT SERIOUSLY ILL OR DYING RELATIVES IN THE
US.

3. THERE IS A SMALL CHANCE, WHICH WE THINK IS WORTH
TAKING, THAT THE CHINESE MIGHT BE RECEPTIVE TO THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF SOME METHOD OF VERIFICATION OF THESE
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CASDS SIMILAR TO THAT USED FOR VERIFYING FAMILY
EMERGENCIES IN THE US. SUCH A SYSTEM SHOULD BE THOROUGH
ENOUGH TO ALLAY ANY PRC SUSPICION OF FRAUD OR SUBTERFUGE,
AND WOULD PROBABLY INVOLVE A SWIFT INVESTIGATION
OF THE VALIDITY OF THE EMERGENCY, BE IT ILLNESS,
ACCIDENT OR DEATH, BY A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE THIRD
PARTY SUCH AS THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS.

4. THIS SUGGESTION COULD BE RAISED IN PRINCIPLE IN
COUNTERPART TALKS DURING THE SECRETARY'S VISIT. IF
ACCEPTABLE TO THE PRC, DETAILS COULD BE WORKED OUT IN
SUBSEQUENT USLO-MFA DISCUSSIONS.

5. PLEASE ADVISE.
WOODCOCK

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